

CS Docket No. 01-129

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From: "The Dowie's" <jad@foxinternet.net>
To: <awise@fcc.gov>
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Subject: Competition In The Video Marketplace

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a "C-Band" satellite dish owner and am responding to your search for comments regarding video competition. I live in Roy, Washington, seventy miles from Seattle, and can't receive clear video signals from the local channels. ABC (KOMO-4) and NBC (KING-5) are clearest only when they air "digital" broadcasts; reception is from our rooftop antenna. CBS (KSTW-7), UPN (11), and WB (22) come in as ghost images and are very snowy (grade B, or less); FOX (KCPQ-13) doesn't come in at all most of the time! It was a pleasure when we moved from Spanaway WA and moved to a rural area not serviced by cable as the cable picture left a great deal to be desired. The analog C-Band satellite signal, however, was a giant leap forward in technology! The signal is super clear; the images sharp and excellent.

That, however, is changing now that we are "improving" the technology by going digital. Since the move to improve the technology, we have seen the disappearance of NBC, CBS, and UPN networks from analog C-Band. Granted, NBC can still be seen over the air on our channel five; however, CBS is a ghost channel, UPN isn't even available on any subscription service of any satellite system, and I don't feel obliged to pay any further monies toward services that should be available via my rooftop antenna (our satellite dish with receiver cost over \$2,000!) I also subscribe to Chicago's WGN and New York's WPIX (WB).

Can't the Federal Communications Commission do something about keeping the availability of key networks on C-Band? UPN used to have Boston's WSBK and New York's WWOR available through subscription; they have been removed as was the network feeds by UPN! I think that is appalling!

I realize the C-Band market is "compacting" to a smaller, leaner size, but it still offers a better picture than the small dishes, and it offers better choices in the programming packages available.

Those are my comments; you can reach me at: jad@foxinternet.net thank you.

Sincerely,

John Dowie
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CC: "Alice (Work)" <alice.dowie@nw.amedd.army.mil>

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